

Sunshine Baskets for 11/9/2008

Bonnie Jones, Elizabeth Mabery,
Heather Conner, Donna Crabtree,
Nellie Crabtree, Vilnessa Holloway

Happy Birthday to...

Chris W. Fox (11/3), Velma Hix (11/6),
Grayson Smith (11/6), Jennifer Phillips (11/8)

Happy Anniversary to...

Oplis & Jean Thomas (11/3/1951),
Bill & Ann Coe (11/4/1961),
John & Barbara Mabery (11/5/1976)

Announcements & Upcoming Events...

November 9th: Area-Wide Youth Night HERE!

Sean Flatt of the Double Springs congregation will be speaking. Snacks & finger foods to follow! Invite all those that you know out to worship God with us!

November 23rd: Jackson Co. 4th Sunday Singing HERE @ 2:00 pm.

November 30th: The collection for this day will go entirely to the building fund.

November 30th: All Male Member Meeting @ 1:00 pm.

December 14th: Christmas dinner after morning worship with 1:00 pm worship service in place of the 5:00 pm service.

Website updates: Our last directory is online! The password has been changed & we have business cards for each family with the website address @ which the online directory can be found & the password in order to access it. If you would like one please see Kristina Hammock. The only people who can access it are those who get a card! Also, the pictures from this year's fright night have been added to the gallery!

Challenge Youth Conference: February 27-March 1, 2009 in Gatlinburg, TN @ the Gatlinburg Convention Center. Sign-up sheet in the back. This year the registration fee & fuel cost for each person are being paid for, but the cost of the room will be divided evenly among everyone. For more details visit <http://cyconline.com/>

Privileged To Serve November 9th

Ushers.....	Tracy Jenkins
.....	Glen Haney
.....	Jeff McDowell
.....	Ben Young
Announcements.....	Rellon Burris
Song Leader.....	Roy Young
Scripture Reading.....	Benjamin Gentry
Speaker.....	John Mabery
Opening Prayer.....	Steve Hensley
Closing Prayer.....	Jerry Young
Oversee Lord's Supper .	Chris Mabery
Prepare Trays.....	Carl Call
Scripture Reading.....	Roy Smallwood
Serve.....	*Charles Whitaker
.....	*Charles Mitchell
.....	*Neal Chaffin
.....	Titus Anderson
.....	Alton Mayberry
.....	Brian Dawson
Alternate to Serve.....	Dale Dennis
.....	Greg Scott
Dismiss Classes.....	Rellon Burris
Count Contribution.....	Corky Trisdale
.....	Earl Jones
.....	Blake Maberry
.....	Roy Flatt
Response Card.....	Burton Young
Power Point.....	Jonathan Conner

Sunday Night (11/9/2008)

Speaker.....	Sean Flatt
Scripture Reading.....	Youth
Song Leader.....	Youth
Opening Prayer.....	Youth
Closing Prayer.....	Youth
Power Point.....	Brian Trisdale

Wednesday (11/12/2008)

Song Leader.....	Billy Scott
Devotional.....	Chris Mabery
Opening Prayer.....	Roy Young
Closing Prayer.....	Raymond Haney

*Take to the sick & shut-in.
Let Jerry Young know if you can't serve.

Elders:

Ted Ragland	268.9387
John Mabery	268.0651
Cell:	265.3835

Deacons:

John Anderson	268.2406
Billy Scott	268.0569
Robert Crabtree	268.4417
Raymond Haney	268.2493
Rellon Burris	268.4738
Carl Call	268.2040
Sjon Gentry	268.3273
Bobby Haney	268.2754
Jerry Young	268.2215

Ministers:

John Mabery	268.0651
John Anderson	268.2406

To Be Saved, JESUS Said We MUST...

Believe Him (Jn.8:24; Heb.11:6)

Repent of our sins (Lk.13:3, 5)

Confess Christ (Rom.10:9-10)

Be immersed in water for remission of sins
(Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom.6:3-4)

Volume 7

November 2, 2008

Number 44

If I Were the Devil's Preacher ... (Part VII) - By John Mabery
(Taking Control of the Church of Christ – Part 2)

If I were the devil's preacher, I would try to seize power over the local church! If possible I'd expand my authority and bring as many congregations as possible under my domain! As previously discussed in the last issue of this bulletin, something would have to be done about the eldership! It seems to me that the wisest thing to do is that which worked well in the past. I'm thinking about the assault of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, along with "... two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown" (Num.16:2), to challenge the God-given roles of Moses and Aaron.

"They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, 'You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?'" (Numbers 16:3)

Their assault was quite effective! Who knows what they might have accomplished for Satan had the Lord not stepped in and stopped them? The implication of saying that "You take too much upon yourselves, ..." leaves one with the impression that Moses and Aaron intentionally and willfully took power to themselves! The implication of the charge is that their authority and rule was their own devising, not the will of God. Bible students know that the Lord assigned leadership roles to Moses and Aaron (cf. Exo.4:1-17). Under the New Covenant, He has assigned the responsibility of over seeing His church to the "elders" of the local congregation (cf. Acts 20:28; Heb.13:17). These men then added insult to injury by accusing Moses and Aaron of exalting themselves above the congregation; that they felt holier and closer to the Lord than the rest. Upon hearing the charges, those listening may have agreed with the sons of darkness and thought that decisions affecting the entire camp should be made by majority rule and not by two men. Again, had the Lord not personally stepped in, one can only wonder what might have happened. *Continued inside...*

Center Grove

Church Of Christ

3857 Grundy Quarles Hwy.
Gainesboro, TN. 38562
931.858.7460 or 931.268.0651

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Classes @ 9:00 a.m.
Worship @ 10:00 a.m.
Worship @ 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Bible Classes @ 7:00 p.m.
Our A.M. Service is **Televised** on Monday
on Cable Channel 16 @ 6:00 pm

Radio: "The Lord's Word" on WLIV 920 AM
10:10 a.m. Monday - Saturday
(We broadcast Thursday, Friday and Saturday)

Website: www.centergrovecoc.com

E-mail for the Website: centergrovecoc@gmail.com

Unfortunately, some of the devil's preachers are already using this particular ploy and have been doing so for some time. These *brethren* have taken the position that elders are to be *examples only*; that the Lord never intended for elders to have authority in *His* church. This, of course, leaves the most visible person in the church (i.e. the devil's preacher) to be the "*go-to*" man for all decisions and help.

Since others challenge the elders' authority already, the devil's preacher needs to be more creative. Perhaps he could make a distinction between *professional* and *common* Christians and seize control! It just might be that the easiest way to do this would be to copy the system already in place in the Roman Catholic Church (i.e. develop a *clergy/laity* system). As a rule, most *common* people (laity) look up to the *professionals* (clergy). Some people see "doctors" as invincible *gods* able to cure any disease. If people thought of the preacher as "**Doctor** Preacher" they might be more apt to listen to him and do what he says just because "**Doctor Preacher said so!**" Don't laugh; look at how many people *revere* their "Priests". "Revere", now there's a thought! If a preacher were to call himself "Reverend", would the people *revere* him? This title has potential!

But if the devil's preacher wants to get serious mileage from a title, he can use the same term the Lord gave to His shepherds; i.e. "Pastor"! Since the Bible teaches that elders, or *pastors*, have been delegated authority by the Lord, a *preacher* might be able to assume *their* authority by applying the term "Pastor" to himself. As *the* "Pastor", he could use the Bible to show the church that pastors have authority in the church. If people think of their preacher as "Pastor", it's just a short step until he becomes *the* "Shepherd" between the flock and Chief Shepherd.

It could be dangerous for a preacher to assume a religious title in order to distinguish himself as a religious *professional* in the midst of *common* believers. After all, Jesus said His disciples were *not* to wear titles to discriminate themselves from their brethren (Mat.23:8-12). The children of God are equal to one another and are supposed to look upon one another as *brethren* (Phil.2:1-5). But come to think of it, it might not even be risky at all; how many people know what Jesus taught about leadership in His church? When the unlearned think a man is a *professional* clergyman, they're going to listen to him instead of Jesus anyway. *To be continued...*

Jesus Gives "Church" Meaning

By Eric Lyons of Apologetics Press

(Taken from <http://www.apologeticspress.com/articles/1612>)

The Greek word *ekklesia*, translated as "church" in most English Bibles, simply means "assembly." In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, "I will build my church (*ekklesia*)." Hence, we could read this verse, "I (Jesus) will build my assembly." Paul wrote, "The churches of Christ salute you" (Romans 16:16). Again, this word translated "churches" could be translated "assemblies."

Interestingly, the same term used in the two verses above (*ekklesia*) also is used at times in reference to secular assemblies. For example, in Acts 19:32 the term *ekklesia* is used to speak of the mob at Ephesus. The text reads: "Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly (*ekklesia*) was confused."

One might ask, "How do I know if the text is speaking about a secular assembly or the church?" Answer: The modifying words in the context of a particular passage are what make it possible to distinguish the kind of assembly to which the Bible writers were referring. We know that the assemblies Paul mentioned in Romans 16:16 are churches because *ekklesia* is modified by the phrase "**of Christ**." Likewise, in Acts 20:28, we know the assembly mentioned is the church because it is modified by the phrase, "**of God**, which **he** hath purchased with **his** own blood" (emp. added). The word "assembly" is set apart from secular assemblies in these passages because the context points to a group of people owned by Christ.

The religious world needs to understand that **Jesus is the one who gives *ekklesia* meaning**. When mere human names and terms are placed alongside "church," then the name no longer possesses the meaning that God intended for it to have. Christians should wear the name of Christ (and Christ only) because He purchased the church (Acts 20:28) and said it was His (Matthew 16:18).

Without the work of Jesus, nothing would separate us from man-made assemblies. He gave *ekklesia* a new meaning in the first century, and continues to give it meaning today when we wear His name.

Copyright © 2001 Apologetics Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

Requested Prayers: Donna Loftis-Young, Terri Collins, Carol Maberry

**There is a list of names in the back of age 65 or older please check to see if your name is on it. If you will be 65 years old this year, please make sure your name is on there.*

Sandy Haney
Ruby Dunn
Zella Charles
Roberta Hix
Dorothy Burris
Don Chaffin
Charlie Ward
Ruby Ward
Delenn Strong
Zola Flatt
Sandy Collier

Prayer List

Hugh Young
Billy Stafford
Opal Pippin
Anna Lou Flatt
Reba Mayberry
Joann Ledbetter
Connie Garret
Catherine Mabery
Elaine Hayes

Bill Wisdom
Bessie Young
Ozelma Martin
Wynell Ballard
Sheldon Warren
Aline Whitaker
Marie Shoemake
Bobby Elkins
Mildred Elkins
Linda Jenkins
Carson Collier

Please remember to keep each of these individuals in your prayers each and every day! They appreciate it greatly!

Area Hospitals:

Cookeville: Kenneth Goolsby, Phil Johnson, Billy Stafford, Wynell Ballard

Vanderbilt: Chris Heady

Michigan: Jo Burris, Mary Curnutte

Area Rest Homes & Rehab. Centers:

NHC: Alice Pippin, Joe Anderson, Mary L. Dudney

Mabry: Plytha Petty

Mabry Assisted Living: Edna Roberts, Velvia Denson

Bethesda: Donald Hensley